

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY  
08/20/2021**

**AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup> CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Brief highlights from this meeting are:

- Approved and Adopted Fiscal Year 2022 budgets and Associated Capital Acquisition Plans which are balanced. Operating Revenues of \$12,602,180 with a tax rate of \$0.5344099 cents per \$100 of valuation, which is \$0.003610 lower than the FY 21 rate. The average tax increase is \$71.87 annually due to an average appraised value of \$208,898.
- Sales Tax receipts are 13.81% higher than last year at this time;
- Awarded a bid to Clark Construction of Texas, Inc. and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for \$1.2 million for the Year 4 Street Maintenance program;
- Heard a request for a specific use permit from I LOVE CHURROS restaurant to expand outdoor seating and approved a one-time economic development payment of \$7,098.45 for three months' rent increase due to their expansion;
- Appointed Erick Matta as the second alternate to the Capital Facilities Committee;
- Set a policy for reimbursing any council member for city related expenses to be approved by the city manager;
- Held a lengthy discussion on Red Light camera tickets and requested verifiable raw data for all traffic crashes which city attorney will research;
- Directed staff to bring back amended ordinances for carport set backs.

The next council meeting will be September 7, 2021, after Labor Day.

## **VIRUS IS STILL AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITY**

As students begin to start school in person this year, many of the area school districts have mandated wearing masks to protect the health and safety of our children, the majority of whom cannot be vaccinated. Area hospitals are under *severe* stress due to the continued number of COVID cases. One third of patients in area hospitals are suffering from COVID -19 virus. The seven-day rolling average of cases stands at 1,597, up from 1,291 on August 6<sup>th</sup>. There are 1,382 people in area hospitals, up from 976 patients on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Currently there are 371 patients in ICU and 253 on ventilators. The positivity rate (the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive) actually **decreased** from 21.4% last week to 16.9% on August 17<sup>th</sup>, which is encouraging. Metro Health reports the current pandemic primarily affects people who are unvaccinated, representing 87% of COVID patients in hospitals. Pediatric cases are also rising.

Metropolitan Health District and University Hospital encourages people who have early symptoms of COVID -19 to consult with their doctor about getting an antibody treatment, *Regeneron*, which can prevent a person from going to the hospital or ER. Last week at the Bexar County Expo Hall, 500 infusions of Regeneron given to patients 18 years and older. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control is expected to

recommend that vaccinated persons obtain a booster shot 8 months after getting fully vaccinated.

As of August 19<sup>th</sup>, 65.9% of our metro area population has been fully vaccinated; 81.8% have received one dose only. The best defense to this virus is to get as many people vaccinated as possible. Metro Health reports approval is pending to issue a \$100 gift card to incentivize more people to get vaccinated.

Other tools besides vaccinations to help slow down the spread of this virus are to wear a mask, social distance and wash hands. Please consider doing these prudent measures to help get this virus back under control.

Due to the increase in COVID cases, the City of Leon Valley has cancelled the September 12<sup>th</sup> Grandparent's Day concert as well as the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to keep our citizens safe and healthy and to avoid a spreading event. Thank you for your understanding.

## **CHA CHA'S NEXT GEN CAFÉ GRAND OPENING POSTPONED**

Due to unexpected circumstances, Cha Cha's Next Gen Café grand opening is now set for **Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** Next Gen Café will open in the former Leon Valley Café spot at 6417 Evers Road, in the

Leon Valley Library complex. If you walk or bike to the restaurant, you will receive a 5% discount on your bill. Please welcome Chef and owner of the Café Bania Ruiz. Café is open every day but Wednesdays and Sundays from 10 am to 8:30 pm.

Please watch out for our precious children as they return back to school next week. Continue to stay safe and do your part to stop the spread of the virus. Enjoy your weekend and do not hesitate to call or email with questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Chris  
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